

“Stick & Stones May Break My Bones but Words?”

(The Roman Soldiers Mock Jesus)

Based on Mark 15:16-20 (NIV)
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching
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Mark 15:16 - The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers.

† **The Praetorium is Pilate's headquarters.**

† **A company of soldiers would be around 200 men.**

Mark 15:17-18

17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

† **The purple robe was most likely the purple military cloak of a Roman soldier.**

† **The crown of thorns was more for mockery than pain.**

Mark 15:19-20

19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

† **Homage means “honor or respect shown publicly.”**

† **We often put others down to try and lift ourselves up.**

† **My words of praise hurt God when my actions do not match them.**

† **Let Christ be in my life by living as Christ would have me, not just giving lip service.**

† **God, through Christ, looks at my potential.**

† **People often focus on my negatives but God focuses on my positives.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When have my actions not matched my words?

† Do my actions about my love for God, through Christ, match my words?

† When am I like the Roman soldiers, finding fault in others to lift myself up?

† What potential does God see in me?

† What is one way that I can come closer to the potential God sees in me by matching my words “I love God through Jesus” with my actions?